FBIS DAILY REPORT
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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED OF PAPAL MEDIATION

PY232228 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1912 GMT 23 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA)--Pope John Paul II has formally notified the Argentine Government of his acceptance of the mission of mediator proposed to him by our country and Chile to seek a peaceful solution to the southern border conflict, according to an official Foreign Ministry communique.

CNEA CHIEF ON POSSIBLE FRG NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

PY240153 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2008 GMT 23 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb (NA)--Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of the Argentine Nuclear Energy Commission (CNEA), today denied that the decision of the FRG Government to postpone the sale of a thermonuclear plant to Argentina was based on political considerations and reasserted that the postponement was due to administrative reasons.

"I have been able to confirm that this is so, and that it is not really a posteponement. The Cabinet meeting during which the export of nuclear technology to several countries, Argentina among them, was to be discussed was postponed for reasons which have nothing to do with the sale itself. The postponement was due to formal problems of the German Cabinet," Castro Madero emphasized.

He made these remarks from Vienna during a telephone interview granted to journalist Jose Ignacio Lopez. The interview was broadcast this morning during the program "Today's People," which is carried by Radio El Mundo.

Castro Madero, who is a member of the IAEA Board of Governors, also reported that he has just been appointed member of the IAEA Scientific Advisory Committee, whose task it is to provide information for the research and development plants which are being constructed.

Concerning Argentina's future possibilities of obtaining a thermonuclear plant from the FRG, Castro Madero said that for the time being Argentina has made two requests for bids to obtain this type of plant. One request was made to FRG industries and the other to Canadian industries. He added that "the bids will be received along with complementary Italian and British offers."

Castro Madero indicated that "the bids will arrive in Argentina on 15 March, which is the deadline, and from there we will make an in-depth analysis of the implications of our decision. That is, we will analyze the technical, economic and financial elements and also the possibilities which these countries can offer with regard to long-term cooperation with Argentina for the implementation of the nuclear plan recently approved by the national executive branch."

Finally, Castro Madero did not deny that there is some reluctance among world nuclear powers to admit countries like Argentina into the field of nuclear research. He added: "It is true that there are obstacles for the transferal of technology, but we must be optimistic because the decision of the national executive branch to go ahead with the nuclear plan can be a powerful argument for an in-depth analysis of the consequences of refusing technical aid to Argentina.

ECONOMY MINISTER RESPONDS TO RECENT CRITICISM

PY212100 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1703 GMT 21 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Feb (NA)--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz stated here today that the nation "is sticking its hands into the pockets of the provinces not to use their money for something else," but "because of the need to go ahead with public works projects where they are being undertaken--not on Mars, but here in our country."

With respect to rumors circulating during the past few days about possible changes in the Economy Ministry, Martinez de Hoz stated that "any speculation in this respect is premature." He attributed the lack of information about the outlines of the draft for this year's budget to the fact that "the government has yet to make a decision on this."

With regard to recent criticism launched against his economic policy, the economy minister said that "because the changes introduced are profound, they require some time to take effect so the public can see their benefits. However, those who realize that they are losing some privileges through this reform, which will benefit the entire society, are inciting an opposition movement because they do not want to lose their privileges."

Concerning the present unemployment level, he said that "we now have a virtually nonexistent unemployment rate--a very, very low one. But I have not heard anything favorable said about this. People don't mention this, but they do insist on mentioning the inflation rate."

UCR COMMUNIQUE CRITICIZES ARREST OF PARTY LEADERS

PY222347 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 22 Feb 79 p 8 PY

[Excerpt] Leaders of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] of Buenos Aires Province have issued a communique criticizing the arrest of top UCR leader Ricardo Balbin and other party leaders, indicating that such actions "reveal the haphazard and incorrect management of the so-called process of national reorganization," and requesting the abrogation of the law which prohibits political activities.

After pointing out that the armed forces must understand that deeds of this kind must not be repeated because they favor neither the process nor the image of the country, the UCR communique emphasized that "the occurrence of such events is possible only through the stubbornness of those who, as active participants of the process, betray the people and democracy itself.... In view of this situation, the least we can ask is for unity of thought among the leaders and harmony of action in implementing this process."

BRIEFS

INDIAN TRADE MISSION--An official mission of the Indian Government has arrived here for a 4-day visit to expand bilateral economic relations and establish direct maritime lines. The mission is headed by T. Balakrishnan of the Indian Ministry of Commerce and is comprised of officials of the transport bureau and representatives of shipping and air transport companies. [Buenos Aires LA RAZON in Spanish 18 Feb 79 p 6 PY]

CARGO TRANSPORT--Rear Adm Carlos Guevara, secretary of maritime interests, said that Argentina hopes to transport 50 percent of its cargo on the Argentine Shipping Lines (ELMA). He said that Argentina is currently only carrying 28 percent. [Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 16 Feb 79 p 6 PY]

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK REFINANCING OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY241622 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1531 GMT 24 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 24 Feb (LATIN)--It was officially announced here today that the military government junta has decided to ask the international organizations from which Bolivia has obtained loans for a refinancing of the country's foreign debt. Junta President David Padilla confirmed this government position, which will be implemented by a high-level commission. Government sources said that the commission will travel to foreign countries to negotiate the "refinancing" with international organizations, mainly with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank.

MILITARY JUNTA REPEALS MILITARY-PEASANT PACT

PY231831 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1605 GMT 23 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 23 Feb (LATIN)--The Bolivian Government has ordered the repeal of the so-called Military-Peasant Pact to facilitate political campaigning in rural areas a little over 4 months before general elections are due in the country. The pact, signed by the late Bolivian President Rene Barrientos in 1966, has been one of the factors irritating the political parties, which have repeatedly asked for its annulment. The suspension of the pact until the election and takeover of a democratic government has been ordered by the military junta headed by Gen David Padilla, military sources said.

Gen Eden Cespedies, commander of the Army's II Corps, stated last night in Santa Cruz, 900 km southeast of here, that the armed forces have thus confirmed their complete impartiality in the electoral process which is beginning. The high-ranking officer said that the intention of the regime was to remove any obstacle for the electoral campaign of the political parties and coalitions.

The military junta recently rejected a unanimous proposal by the political parties which requested the annulment of the Military-Peasant Pact, charging that it was an instrument of political pressure against that large majority sector of the nation. The request was considered groundless and the armed forces reiterated their opinion that the pact was the best way to develop assistance programs for the peasant class. Almost 5 million people--68.8 percent of Bolivia's population--live in rural areas, and peasants with a right to vote constitute over 60 percent of an electorate estimated at 2 million voters.

MNRI GIVES FULL SUPPORT TO SILES ZUAZO

PY230134 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 23 Feb 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 22 Feb (AFP)--Presidential candidate Hernan Siles Zuazo received the full support of his party, the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], after a meeting of its leaders held here today. The MNRI's main leaders also gave Siles Zuazo broad powers to select his running mate for the vice presidential post. The results of the MNRI meeting were interpreted here by the local press as a green light to leader Jaime Paz Zamora, who is supporting Siles Zuazo in partisan proclamations during the election campaign. The naming of Paz Zamora as vice presidential candidate has been questioned by various political parties which comprise the Democratic and Popular Unity Front.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE VIEWS ITAIPU, CORPUS PROJECTS

PY230005 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2020 GMT 22 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Feb (LATIN)--Brazilian diplomatic sources have expressed their belief that Argentina will seriously negotiate an agreement regarding the hydroelectric dams on the Parana River only when the dam it plans to build [Corpus] becomes a reality. This statement was an explanation for the significant step backward experienced by the Argentine-Brazilian-Paraguayan talks on the reconciliation of Itaipu (Brazilian-Paraguayan) and Corpus.

A high-ranking source at the Brazilian Foreign Ministry explained that Itaipu could not be "tied" to a project such as Corpus, which no one knows when it will be built, while the Brazilian-Paraguayan dam is already being built and constitutes an irreversible fact. The diplomatic statement was the result of Argentine demands regarding Corpus and the conditions it places on certain aspects of Itaipu, aspects which according to the source are to be decided by Paraguay and Brazil alone. The source added that Argentina's main interest is the water flowing downstream from Itaipu. Therefore, Argentina's request to hold a tripartite meeting to study how the Brazilian-Paraguayan dam should be filled has been rejected.

The source added that Brazil's decision to withdraw its consent to a 105-meter waterhead for Corpus--when all it should have is 98.5 or 95 meters--will help Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo's future government to negotiate freely without any binding commitments.

Meanwhile, the Brazilian press believes that Figueiredo will change Brazil's current ambassador in Argentina and the latter country will do the same with its representative in Brasilia, even though he has already been confirmed by the Argentine Government.

O ESTADO CRITICIZES REJECTION OF ARGENTINE PROPOSAL

PY222120 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Feb 79 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "Another Case of Ineptitude in the River Plate"]

[Text] Brazil and Argentina are again confronting an impasse in the negotiations to make the Itaipu and Corpus dams compatible. This is quite deplorable since an almost definitive agreement had been achieved at the last meeting held in September 1978, which Paraguay also attended. Brazil now rejects the agreement establishing the height of Corpus at 105 meters, alleging that the agreement under negotiation was useful but not essential for Itaipu and that Argentina introduced new points which change the essence of the framework of the negotiations. Furthermore, Itamaraty states that the Itaipu works will be able to continue without any alteration in accordance with the agreement signed with Paraguay.

There are in this interpretation of the events some erroneous points which must be duly explained. In the first place, it is not Argentina but rather Brazil and Paraguay which are to blame for the present impasse. The negotiations which were underway were based on the installation of 18 generators of 700,000 kilowatts in Itaipu. This was the basis for the trilateral talks, but after September the Brazilian and Paraguayan governments decided to install two additional generators, alleging that they would be spare units to cover any eventual interruption. [paragraph continues]

The reaction of the Argentine Foreign Ministry can be considered completely normal: Argentina accepted the 2 additional generators, but it reserved for itself the right to increase the Corpus height from 105 meters to 110 meters if the 2 additional turbines start operating in addition to the other 18 turbines, thus increasing the rate of water flowing downstream from Itaipu.

If Brazil and Paraguay asked Argentina to trust their word when they said they would not operate 20 turbines, Argentina could also do the same when it said it would not increase the height of Corpus (which would decrease the generating capacity of Itaipu) if Itaipu does not use 20 turbines. But since verbal solutions are not accepted in diplomatic relations, we are now confronting an impasse which has been brought about by the sudden awareness of Brazilian and Paraguayan technicians of the "need" for two additional reserve units. Why didn't they start negotiating 20 turbines instead of 18 from the very beginning?

Itamaraty asserts that the Itaipu works can continue without the approval of Argentina in accordance with the Asuncion treaty signed with Paraguay. But the problem is much more complex because of the following: The normal flow of the Parana River when Itaipu is finished will depend on the number of units in operation and the formation of the Itaipu lake, which for 15 or 20 days will cause a considerable decrease in the river's flow thus hindering navigation in Argentine territory. The first problem can be easily solved through an agreement with Argentina on the height of Corpus or by setting at 18 the number of turbines operating in Itaipu. But the second problem is much more complex and, for the time being, has two solutions: install auxiliary floodgates in Itaipu, a delicate and costly operation; or open the floodgates of the Iguacu River during this period to increase the Parana River flow downstream from Itaipu. This thesis, which is more viable, depends however on having a good rainy season with a high level of precipitation. From this point of view, the position maintained by Paraguay and Brazil does not seem to be either simple or easy.

From our point of view, Brazil should study and propose other more negotiable solutions before adopting such an intransigent attitude as the one which has been taken. One of these solutions would be to return to the initial proposal of only 18 turbines. The other would be to keep two spaces vacant for the future installation of additional turbines since this will be necessary by the end of the next decade. In so doing, we would be gaining valuable time for the negotiations. This was the same procedure adopted in Ilha Solteira, which began operating with 16 turbines and only recently had 4 more installed. Finally, the other proposal would be to install the 20 turbines now with the condition that if no agreement is reached with Argentina on the height of Corpus, they will be withdrawn from operation. Since 10 years is the estimated period before Corpus begins operating, the power these two turbines will generate during that period will pay for the investment made.

At any rate, Brazil must not and cannot depend on either Argentina or Paraguay regarding the final power Itaipu will generate. It must be certain--and we assert that it already is--that in the future Paraguay will not sign an agreement with Argentina to build Corpus at a height which will reduce the generating capacity of Itaipu. Paraguay might be persuaded to accept this by receiving compensation from Argentina for the loss Paraguay will take on Itaipu. If this should happen, any loss should be taken from the portion corresponding to Paraguay. This clause should be established right now. Furthermore, by breaking off negotiations with Argentina, Brazil will become dependent on Paraguay, which will decide in the end on the construction of Corpus, an important undertaking for the neighboring country not only as a source of revenue but also as a source of labor which will be released when the construction of Itaipu ends. We believe Itamaraty is conscious of this situation which is much more complex and delicate than indicated by the Itamaraty spokesman when he announced Brazil's rejection of the Argentine proposal.

After another example of ineptitude in the River Plate Basin, we might expect anything from Itamaraty.

FRENCH RATIFICATION OF TLALTELOLCO TREATY APPLAUDED

PY171153 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0040 GMT 17 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Feb (LATIN)--According to the offical Foreign Ministry spokesman, the Brazilian Government has received with "the greatest satisfaction" the French decision to adhere to the Tlaltelolco Treaty, which forbids the use and storage of nuclear weapons in Latin America. Luis Felipe Lampreia also praised that legal instrument, labeling it "the most complete" because it not only forbids the use of nuclear arms in the continent but also forbids their storage in the region.

He also stated that the French decision to adhere to that treaty has great significance considering the technology developed by France in this sector. He reiterated that Brazil has given guarantees to several international organizations about its decision to use nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful means. This statement came in response to remarks made by the Netherlands foreign minister to the effect that guarantees should be demanded from all countries that nuclear energy will not be used for military purposes or for the construction of nuclear weapons. The Brazilian Government is aware that it has given sufficient guarantees that it will use the nuclear industry for peaceful purposes alone, Lampreia told the reporters.

He said that Brazil has not received a reply from France regarding the formation of a "pool" of countries for the exploitation of nuclear energy, and explained that the government's policy is that of establishing its own nuclear processing plant in Brazil.

PARAGUAYAN PRESIDENT TO ATTEND FIGUEREIDO'S INAUGURATION

PY221711 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Feb 79 p 4 PY

[By Carlos Chagas]

[Excerpts] Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner has been especially invited by the Brazilian Government and has agreed to attend Gen Joao Baptista Figuereido's presidential inauguration after having previously decided not to.

On the night of 14 March, a day before the presidential inauguration, Stroessner will be honored at a private dinner at Alvorada Palace given by President Geisel and attended by his successor. Although there is no official confirmation, it is known that the invitation was reiterated to General Stroessner by future Minister of Aeronautics Delio Jardim de Mattos, who spent 2 days in Asuncion and returned to Brasilia the day before yesterday. Previously, the Paraguayan Government had decided to send the president of the Paraguayan Congress as its representative.

Although there is a lack of information on Brazilian strategy to politically take advantage of the presidential inauguration for the benefit of our foreign policy, it seems obvious that this time, except for the special case of Paraguay, we will not be making an effort to have the leaders of strong or arbitrary regimes attend. General Figueiredo's desire is not to have his administration associated with "partners" of that kind, although due to political or economic reasons some exceptions can be made.

UN REPORT CLAIMS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CONTINUE

PY220153 Paris AFP in Spanish 2003 GMT 21 Feb 79 PY

[Text] United Nations, Geneva, 21 Feb (AFP)--It was disclosed here today that there are still human rights violations, sometimes serious ones, in Chile according to the report of the work group appointed by the United Nations to conduct an investigation into that Latin American country.

In the document delivered today to the UN Committee on Human Rights now meeting in Geneva, the group adds that the situation demands sustained vigilance on the part of the international community. In its report, the work group requests the Chilean Government to lift the state of siege and the state of emergency, and to quickly return to the people their right to participate freely in public affairs.

The group insists that the government attempt to identify and punish persons responsible for acts of torture and incidents resulting in the deaths of prisoners. According to the report, from January to the end of October 1978, 378 persons were arrested in Chile for political or national security reasons, as opposed to 346 persons in 1977 and 552 in 1976.

The group indicated that it has solid proof regarding the fate of more than 600 persons who are presently declared missing in Chile. The document recalls last year's discovery of a large number of bodies in an abandoned mine near Lonquen. It also reports that it continues to receive news about mistreatment and torture inflicted on prisoners in Chile, and emphasizes the severe restrictions on union rights, especially the disbanding of unions.

At the same time, the group mentions a Chilean Government note which rejects the committee's accusations and states that in reality, the document is only a biased report against Chile. The Santiago government asserted that in 1978 there were no deaths in Chile that could be related in any way to government policy.

The work group appointed by the United Nations in 1975 to investigate the human rights situation in Chile is headed by Ghulam Ali Allana from Pakistan, and its members are Leopoldo Benitez from Ecuador, Abdoulaye Dieye from Senegal, Felix Ermacor from Austria and Marian J.T. Kamara from Sierra Leone.

Response to Allegations

PY230014 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Ambassador Sergio Diez will answer the report on the human rights situation in Chile. Sources from the Foreign Ministry said that our permanent representative to the United Nations is now preparing the answer he will present to the Human Rights Committee concerning the alleged disappearances in our country.

A UN task force, according to news agency reports, has stated that more than 600 arrested persons have disappeared in Chile. The group demanded that the United Nations seek new ways to investigate such allegations.

Chilean diplomatic sources confirmed the existence of the report and stated that Ambassador Diez will be in charge of clarifying the situation. However, no date has been set for any such presentation because the Human Rights Committee which met in Geneva has not yet determined when it will again discuss the Chilen case.

FIVE BODIES FOUND IN ABANDONED MINE IDENTIFIED

PY162232 Paris AFP in Spanish 1917 GMT 16 Feb 79 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 16 Feb (AFP)--It was reported here today that at least 5 of the 26 bodies found in an abandoned mine are those of missing detainees.

Peasant Adrian Maureira Lillo and his four sons, who were initially identified by their family, were included in the list of 650 missing detainees the Catholic Church had delivered to Chilean officials for investigation, it was indicated. The bodies were discovered in the kiln of an old lime mine in Lonquen, a rural zone 60 km south of here, and 2 days later the Maureira Munoz family identified five of the victims as the father and his sons. All five are included in the list of names Chilean Cardinal Raul Silva Henriquez presented to the interior minister in the middle of last year in an attempt to learn of their whereabouts. Olga Maureira told the newspaper LA SEGUNDA that her father and her brothers Jose, Rodolfo, Segundo and Sergio were detained by the military Carabineros police on 7 October 1973, 4 weeks after the military movement overthrew the government of the late socialist President Salvador Allende in Chile.

The list of 650 persons presented by the church to the government and to the courts includes persons who disappeared between 1973 and 1977. According to the list, most are active members and leaders of proscribed political parties of the left.

After the discovery of the bodies in the abandoned mine in December 1978, the court of justice ordered a special investigation, and the slow process of trying to identify the bodies began.

EXPORTS SHOW 13.9-PERCENT INCREASE IN 1978

PY201456 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0109 GMT 20 Feb 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Feb (LATIN)--A report released by the Central Bank today revealed that Chilean exports increased 13.9 percent in 1978 as compared to 1977, which represented an income of approximately $301 million to the country.

According to the report, exports last year reached $2.480 billion while the previous year they reached $2.177 billion. It was also reported that from a total of 28 export products, 5 became the main sources of income in foreign currency in 1978, excluding copper, which dropped from $1,577,700,000 in 1977 to $1,201,500,000 last year.

These products were cellulose, which represented $116.1 million (4.4 percent); fishmeal with $105.8 million (4.4 percent) [as received]; wood with $94.4 million (3.9 percent); iron with $79.6 million (3.3 percent); and molybdenum oxide with $71.6 million (3.0 percent).

In 1977, these same products represented the following income: cellulose with $86.5 million (3.9 percent); fishmeal with $86.5 million (3.9 percent); wood with $70.4 million (3.2 percent); and molybdenum oxide with $31 million (1.4 percent).

MINISTER DENOUNCES PLOT TO PROTECT SUBVERSIVES

PA222009 Paris AFP in Spanish 1431 GMT 22 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 22 Feb (AFP)--The Colombian Government charged here today that there is an international plot to protect the subversives with whom the country is afflicted. Defense Minister Gen Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva, responding to critics in Europe and the United States who have denounced torture in Colombia, invited them to "come and get to know us."

The minister was thus responding to hundreds of letters that the government has received from France, Great Britain, the United States, Switzerland and Spain protesting alleged torture of prisoners.

Camacho Leyva sent a letter to sociology Professor Paul Holchstim of Central Connecticut State College, who had written to express surprise over the alleged offenses. After maintaining that there is a movement abroad to cover up the subversion, Camacho Leyva said that Colombia's democratic institutions are being threatened.

"We respect the law and protect freedom of expression, assembly and association. What we cannot protect, for obvious reasons, is subversion," the minister said.

The minister added that in the face of subversion the Colombian Government has a historic responsibility that it does not intend to renounce.

Allegations of torture have been made by prisoners linked to guerrilla groups, primarily the 19 April Movement, the M-19. This group has been practically wiped out by the government through military action. The armed forces have been accused of violating human rights in order to obtain confessions from the accused.

TROOPS DISMANTLE FARC OPERATIONS CENTER

PA252304 Paris AFP in Spanish 1737 GMT 25 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 25 Feb (AFP)--An operations center of the pro-Soviet Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] was dismantled today by government troops in Sabana de Torres, Santander Department, it was reported in Bogota today. The owner of a large ranch where the FARC general headquarters was being organized was arrested because of his links with the subversives, official sources said. Other members of the command escaped to the mountains, it was added.

ECOPETROL REPORTS TWO SABOTAGE INCIDENTS

PA240334 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] today reported two acts of sabotage carried out against its installations in El Centro and the industrial complex of Barrancabermeja.

In an official communique, ECOPETROL said, without fixing responsibility, that the first incident occurred at the crude-gathering substation No 34 of El Centro, where a valve was purposely left open. This resulted in the spilling of crude, minimized due to the opportune intervention of supervisory personnel.

ECPETROL said that the second incident occurred in the industrial complex when a cutting electrode was used to cut a new pipe in over No H-131 of the vacuum section of the combined ventilation unit. ECOPETROL added that a hole 1.5 inches long by .75 inches wide was made intentionally This occurred during the unit's routine maintenance process a short time before it was placed in operation. The communique did not say whether there were any casualties or what the amount of the damage was.

GOVERNMENT CONTINUES CRACKDOWN ON NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

PA240421 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--According to an official report, the government today ordered the destruction of all clandestine airports used by drug traffickers. A decree to this effect was issued today as part of the all-out struggle which President Turbay Ayala's administration is waging against narcotics traffic in this country. The document also provides for heavy fines that can be converted into prison sentences for the owners of such airfields.

The decree was published a few hours after 400 kg of cocaine and 40 tons of marihuana were seized by the authorities in northern Colombia in two different operations. Three planes, several vehicles, arms and money were also seized, and approximately 15 persons were arrested, several of them U.S. citizens.

The national government today expanded the powers granted to the governors, intendants and police chiefs to combat narcotics traffic [words indistinct] Decree 2144, which suppresses this crime. According to a decree issued this afternoon, the government's agents in departments, intendancies and police departments can give orders to destroy clandestine airstrips discovered within their jurisdiction. Decree 442 issued today states that violators of Decree 2144 are subject to immediate arrest and will have 20 working days to pay whatever fines they are charged. Thereafter, they must begin to pay off fines at the rate of 1 day for every 500 pesos, not to exceed a period of 5 years.

The new decree also increases from 24 to 72 hours the time allowed for violators to be called by the authorities to render statements and to be charged when the case involves more than five persons. It also provides that when violators are punished, a civilian judge will review the case in order to determine whether a criminal investigation is justified, without overturning the charges.

CONSERVATIVES APPOINT NEW LEADERSHIP

PA220040 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Feb 79 p 3 PA

[Article by Carlos J. Gonzalez]

[Excerpt] We want our unity to be more realistic and less theoretical [pactada], one with which we will feel at ease, not a last minute pact, Alvaro Gomez Hurtado--Conservative Party chief--stated yesterday. He attended an event in honor of Raimundo Emiliani Roman, who will leave for Rome soon in his capacity as Colombian ambassador to the Holy See.

The homage paid to Emiliani Roman occurred shortly after the Conservative National Directorate appointed Huila Senator Felio Andrade Manrique as its president and Antioquia Senator Guillermo Velez Urreta as its vice president.

In expressing his appreciation for the appointment, the new president of the Conservative National Directorate announced that "our purpose is unity, and it will be achieved right now with those who want it. Our policy is very clear, broad and generous, without any recriminations or hatred and full of good will."

By the cooptative system the National Directorate also chose Cornelio Reyes, Mario S. Vivas, Miguel Escobar Mendez and Jorge Uribe Botero as new members.

The Conservative National Directorate is made up as follows: Huila Senator Felio Andrade Manrique, president, and Antioquia Senator Guillermo Velez Urreta, vice president. The other members are: Lucio Pabon Nunez of Norte de Santander, Tolima Senator Jaime Pava Navarro, Santander Senator Dario Marin Vanegas, Atlantico Senator Roberto Gerlein Echverria, Maria Elena Uribe de Santamaria, Hernando Forero Gomez, Quindio Congressman Hugo Palacios Mejia, Santander Congressman Oscar Martinez Salazar, Cordoba Senator Miguel Escobar Mendez, Cauca Senator Mario S. Vivas, Valle del Cauca Senator Cornelio Reyes and Bogota Senator Jorge Uribe Botero. Roberto Camacho was confirmed in his position as secretary.

INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARREST URUGUAYAN NEWSMAN

PA251824 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0628 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 23 Feb (EFE)--The Colombian military intelligence services today arrested Uruguayan newsman Fernando Britos Volpe in Bogota for unknown reasons, the radio station Radio Cadena Nacional has revealed.

Britos, who is correspondent for Uruguayan television Channel 3 and Mexican television Channel 13, works for an advertising agency in Colombia. No details were released about Britos' arrest, but it is presumed that it is connected with investigations that are currently underway to disband the M-19 guerrilla group.

In a communique released today, the Foreign Press Association of Colombia expressed its deep concern over the arrest of the newsman and noted that Britos is an honsest worker who stays away from any political activity in the country.

BRIEFS

CATTLE AGREEMENT WITH VENEZUELA--Bogota--Colombia and Venezuela signed a cattle agreement today to regulate the negotiations between the two countries in this area. A bilateral commission composed of representatives of the governments and private sectors of both countries today approved the agreement after 2 days of talks. The agreement provides for continuity in granting cattle import and export licenses and a constant comparison of these licenses to prevent illegal trade and to punish the guilty. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA]

COFFEE RUST ALERT--Bogota--The government has alerted the Colombian people and asked for their cooperation in a campaign to prevent the entry of coffee rust into Colombia. A joint communique from the Agriculture Ministry, the Colombian Agriculture and Livestock Institute and the National Federation of Coffee Producers points out the imminent danger of contagion and the grave consequences which the disease would cause to the national economy. The document reminds coffee producers of the precautions they must take. It appeals to travelers not to bring vegetable matter into the country. It also announces the intensification of sanitary measures in border areas and the installation of ovens in all international airports to incinerate vegetable matter. [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA]

HAYA DE LA TORRE'S HEALTH CAUSES INCREASING CONCERN

PA240340 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0021 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 23 Feb (LATIN)--Veteran politician Raul Haya de la Torre could become Peru's next president at the age of 84, but the big question is his health.

The Constituent Assembly has just approved a provision which establishes that the winner of the presidential election will be the candidate who obtains first place, as long as he receives more than a third of the votes cast. Haya's center-left American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA) has traditionally obtained the solid support of a third of the voters. This was confirmed when APRA won June's Constitutent Assembly elections with 35 percent of the votes. The possibilities that Haya will reach the presidency, following two attempts frustrated by the military, were increased as a result of a public opinion poll.

The military government has yet to set an exact date for the elections scheduled for next year. APRA leaders are exerting pressure for the elections to be held in October 1979, since they feel that time is running against Haya de le Torre, who has dominated Peru's political scene for the past 50 years.

Their concerns are particularly serious concerning the health of Haya de la Torre, who virtually collapsed this week during a plenary session of the Constitutent Assembly. Haya de la Torre is president of the assembly. Victor Raul, as his supporters call him, had to be taken out of the room to receive medical attention 3 hours after debate began. On his return, he read what an extreme left representative called Haya's farewell to the assembly, in which he asked for the cooperation of all its members in the great mission that the Peruvian people have given them.

Insistent rumors on his health spread rapidly among political circles after he canceled his annual trip to his native city of Trujillo, on the northern coast of Peru, when he turned 84.

Although APRA spokesmen quickly moved to deny the rumors, many politicians agree that Haya de la Torre is not in a condition to carry out a political campaign and to rule the country alone. Newsmen who cover the assembly's weekly sessions indicate that Haya de la Torre has trouble holding his head upright, that he cannot control his debates and that he cannot remember the names of his legislators.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS SUSPENSION OF 10 PUBLICATIONS

PA231156 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 22 Feb (EFE)--Peruvian Prime Minister Div Gen Pedro Richter said today that the military government will not lift the suspension it imposed on 10 publications so long as an emergency situation exists in the country. Richter said that once the emergency measures are lifted, an "evaluation" will be made to determine which publications can resume activities and which will not be allowed to do so.

During the last 40 days, the regime has "suspended" 10 weekly and biweekly opposition publications. Among these is CARETAS, believed to be of the highest quality and with the greatest influence. The suspended publications also include the pro-Moscow Communist Party mouthpiece, the liberal weekly EL TIEMPO, an organ of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance, and six Maoist and Trotskyite extreme left publications.

PRESIDENT PEREZ COMMENTS ON WORLD OIL SITUATION

PA250332 Paris AFP in Spanish 0207 GMT 25 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 24 Feb (AFP)--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said here today that the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cannot behave as a monopoly which takes advantage of specific circumstances to speculate.

Referring to the worldwide demand for petroleum as a result of the Iranian crisis, Perez said that petroleum "has to continue to be worth more," but that the producers "cannot provoke violent increases, because we could kill the goose that laid the golden egg." The Venezuelan president, who will turn over power to his successor Luis Herrera on 12 March, compared the current petroleum situation to that of 1970, "when the energy crisis was unleashed." In his opinion, the coming phase, "subsequent to the Iranian crisis," will be more difficult than the previous one. The whole world must strive to conserve the resource and decrease the use of petroleum.

The OPEC countries must think about "harm to the economies" of the developing countries if a hasty increase in prices takes place without any compensation. As for the industrialized countries, they should bear in mind that "if they want to have reserves for the future, we cannot sell that reserve petroleum at the same price as the petroleum that they are going to consume immediately."

An analysis of this situation must be undertaken by the OPEC meeting in Geneva in March. Perez said that it was in order to promote this analysis that he has sent Energy Minister Valentin Hernandez to the Middle East.

PRESIDENT-ELECT COMMENTS ON FUTURE OIL POLICY

PA260429 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 22 Feb 79 p 2-1 PA

[Article by Ricardo Escalante]

[Excerpts] President-elect Luis Herrera Campins feels that no changes are necessary at the executive level in the nationalized oil industry.

Herrera expressed this opinion yesterday, shortly after having held a lengthy meeting with the top executives of the Venezuelan Petroleum Company [PETROVEN] and its operating companies.

The president-elect said emphatically that during his administration there will be no "partisanship" within the industry.

Promotions and appointments will be based solely and exclusively on the merits of the applicants....

The president-elect expressed great satisfaction with the information given him by members of the PETROVEN Board of Directors regarding the present status and future prospects of the country's most important source of revenue.

He said: The prospects are optimistic. However, we must always be alert to the international situation in order to maintain a line marked by prudence and boldness....

The president-elect later said that Venezuela must increase its oil production capacity but without detriment to the policy and plans for conservation.

He added: We firmly support an increase in exploration in order to increase the level of reserves....

Regarding the Orinoco oil belt, the president-elect emphasized the importance of implementing a large-scale research project, adding: In the final analysis, our future is greatly dependent upon the resources available in the belt.

Herrera Campins said: "I have taken this opportunity to reiterate to the Board of Directors of PETROVEN and to the representatives of its subsidiary companies my decision to pursue, in my administration, an oil policy without partisanship.

"In the operating companies, promotions and personnel appointments will be made on the basis of merit and nothing else...."

NEW ADMINISTRATION PROTESTS SIGNING OF SUGAR AGREEMENT

PA231945 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1530 GMT 23 79 PA

[Text] The Venezuelan Government has signed a sugar agreement with the Dominican Government but the step has not been officially reported to representatives of Luis Herrera Campins, the next president. This was reported to this station by Joaquin Perez Rodriguez, coordinator of the committee for liaison between the incoming president and the state sugar centrals.

[Begin Perez recording] The Venezuelan Government intends to sign today [as heard] an agreement with the Dominican Republic on the supply of sugar over the next 3 years. The fact that the Venezuelan Government has not supplied the new government with any details of the agreement to be signed today is a serious matter because this agreement will affect the new government and not the one that will cease functioning on 12 March. [end recording]

Perez said that this agreement contradicts the policy to be implemented by Herrera in regard to the supply of foodstuffs.

[Begin Perez recording] We feel that one of the goals of the new government headed by Luis Herrera Campins will be specifically to avoid imports of farm products, including sugar. Therefore, this agreement will affect one of the fundamental plans of President Luis Herrera's government. [end recording]

Perez said in conclusion that it is not logical for the present government to undertake international commitments that will have to be faced by the incoming government. Even less logical is the fact that these steps have not been reported to its representatives.

1982 OIL PRODUCTION GOAL TO BE REACHED THIS YEAR

PA252000 Paris AFP in Spanish 1750 GMT 25 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Feb (AFP)--EXCELSIOR (center-left) said here today that by the end of this year Mexico's oil production will reach 2.25 million barrels a day, the goal set for 1982.

The newspaper added that the official announcement will be made on 18 March during the inauguration of a gas pipeline which will permit the distribution of fuel throughout the country.

At present, crude production amounts to 1.7 million barrels daily. By March it is expected to reach 1.8 million, said the same newspaper report, which did not disclose its sources.

The article explained that the 1982 production goal can be reached 3 years ahead of time because of the bonanza of recently drilled wells that are producing more than expected.

DEPUTIES PREDICT FURTHER U.S. OIL PRESSURE

PA231452 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2158 GMT 22 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (EFE)--One week after U.S. President Jimmy Carter's visit, two Mexican congressmen have predicted here that "U.S. pressure" in favor of signing an oil agreement will continue. Government party Deputy Julio Zamora Batiz and Socialist Deputy Hector Ramirez Cuellar made the prediction during a session of the standing congressional committee at which the results of Carter's visit were analyzed. The results were divulged today, Thursday.

Carter's 14-16 February visit to Mexico ended without an agreement on the key topics of energy products, migrant workers and trade.

Zamora, former Mexican representative at the Latin American Free Trade Association (LAFTA), said that "U.S. pressure" will continue for "a long time." "The United States will insist on concluding an agreement on hydrocarbons because it is a vital, strategic and national security need of the United States," said the deputy of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. Zamora said that for this reason it is necessary that all of the country's democratic sectors support the Mexican Government, which has assumed a position of dignity.

After expressing his opposition to an increase in production and the exportation of oil by Mexico above its set goals, Zamora said that overproduction would deplete reserves and harm the country's future.

Ramirez, deputy for the Popular Socialist Party, which is linked to the government, said that "U.S. pressure" will continue in view of the economic interests "represented by the Carter administration." The representative predicted that, therefore, the United States will not stop "pressuring Mexico into overexploiting its oil resources."

He noted that the first "great pressure" because of the shortage of energy products is expected to arise in that country in July. "For this reason, it is evident that U.S. pressure in regard to Mexico's energy products will continue for reasons of a material nature," he said.

PEMEX ALMOST FINISHED WITH NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

PA242149 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0513 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 23 Feb (EFE)--The main pipeline in a Mexican network for the distribution of natural gas is practically finished and with it the possibility of selling gas to the United States has been enhanced. Reports confirmed by Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) to EFE today announce that the pipeline connecting the southeast deposits with the northern zone will be inaugurated on the 18 March anniversary of the oil industry expropriation carried out by Mexico.

The pipeline, which is 1,242 km long, will permit natural gas to be carried to industrial sectors in the east and north of the country. It is the first link in a pipeline network that PEMEX plans to contribute to the country's industrialization.

Meanwhile, sources in the energy industry see the new pipeline as an important step in overcoming one of the obstacles to selling gas to the United States.

The pipeline will carry approximately 800 million cubic feet (22.7 million cubic meters) of gas daily.

The pipeline PEMEX is putting into service on 18 March connects deposits in Cactus, located in southeastern Mexico, with Los Ramones, a village some 100 km from the border with the United States.

The pipeline, which cost approximately $1 million, consists of a main line which is 1,102 km long with pipes 48 inches (1.22 meters) in diameter, running from Cactus to San Fernando, a town 119 km from the U.S. border. Leaving San Fernando is 140 km of pipeline 42 inches in diameter that connects with a pipeline network supplying gas to the northern part of the country, especially the cities of Monterrey, Saltillo, Torreon and Chihuahua.

In addition to this, PEMEX plans another pipeline for exportation 119 km long and 42 inches in diameter between San Fernando and the border city of Reynosa to connect it to U.S. distribution systems.

PEMEX Director Jorge Diaz Serrano said a year ago that the construction of this pipeline will depend on the United States' solving its internal problems to meet the $2.60 price that Mexico is asking for a thousand cubic feet of natural gas.

BRIEFS

MEASLES EPIDEMIC--Mexico City, 24 Feb (EFE)--Health authorities report that a measles outbreak has led to the hospitalization of 131 children in the past 24 hours. The total number of cases in hospitals and clinics of the northern section of the city is 400. Health authorities added that the epidemic does not threaten Mexico's child population because a vaccination campaign has been stepped up. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 0926 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA]

ROYO MEETS WITH TAIWAN ENVOY, SOVIET DELEGATION

PA250157 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] President Dr Aristides Royo yesterday met separately with Dr Lien Chan, special ambassador and personal representative of the president of the Republic of China, and Stanislav Pilotovich, Karen Brutents and Aleksey Mineyev, members of the USSR Supreme Soviet. [as heard]

During his meeting with Dr Royo, the Chinese ambassador expressed his government's desire to intensify agricultural-technical cooperation with Panama. Dr Royo said Panama is a country that knows how to be a friend to its friends and which does not abandon them, particularly in moments of anguish and bad times. Ambassador Lien Chan delivered to President Royo a letter signed by his country's president, Chiang Ching-kuo, notifying him of the U.S. recognition of the Chinese Communist regime of Beijing and thanking him for Panama's continued friendship with China.

On their part, the members of the Supreme Soviet who are visiting Panama to learn of our process throughout the country noted the possibility that the Soviet Union might provide technical aid to Panama.

Text of Taiwan Letter

PA251956 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Feb 79 pp 1, 50 PA

[Text] Taipei, 16 February 1979. His Excellency Aristides Royo, president of the Republic of Panama.

Your Excellency:

I have instructed my ambassador to inform your foreign minister of the action taken by the United States in recognizing the Beijing Chinese Communist regime and terminating diplomatic relations with my government. I wish to thank your illustrious government for your kind answer assuring us of your continued friendship toward the Republic of China.

It is true that the change of U.S. foreign policy toward China creates many problems for the Republic of China, but I trust we can overcome them. The Republic of China has suffered a series of diplomatic setbacks. Nevertheless, I am sure that with the encouragement and moral support of our friends we will be able to withstand this last blow. I am pleased to inform Your Excellency that because of the indignation felt by the people at the treachery of our former ally and because we now are aware of the need to depend on ourselves, our political unity has been strengthened and our morale is higher than ever. The economy continues its upward progress, which strengthens our people's determination to defend our mode and style of living. The people and the government will work with greater earnestness for their own preservation and for the attainment of our supreme objective, which is reestablishing freedom and democracy in all of China. We will continue to play our role--humble but vital--of containing communist expansion in this part of the world.

For many decades the Republic of China and the Republic of Panama have been united by close bonds of friendship. Both nations share the same interest in the cause of liberty and justice. In these difficult times your support is of great importance in maintaining the Republic of China's international position. I fervently hope we will be able to continue counting on your friendship and support, cooperating at the same time for the sake of peace and progress.

With very cordial greetings and best wishes, I reiterate to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest and most distinguished appreciation.

Chiang Ching-kuo, president of the Republic of China.

This is a faithful translation of the original: Philip Pang-yen Liu, director of protocol, Foreign Ministry, Republic of China.

Soviet Group's Activities

PA231716 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 23 Feb 79 p 1 PA

[Text] Victor Corrales Nunez, president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, yesterday received three members of the CPSU Central Committee who are in this capital at the invitation of the national government. Carlos Calzadilla, secretary general of the assembly, explained the revolutionary process and the popular power structure to Stanislav Pilotovich, who is also a deputy for Belorussia, and to Karen Brutents and Aleksey Mineyev.

There was a dialog during which the visitors asked how representatives maintain contact with the voters. The president of the assembly explained in detail our system, according to which a representative who changes his residence loses his post. The discussion was also attended by Representatives Dario Gonzalez Pitti, Cogley Kelly and Ali Nunez. Corrales noted that the popular power was pleased with the visit of three prominent members of the CPSU Central Committee and stated that everything is ready for the visit by members of the Supreme Soviet who will come to Panama in November. Pilotovich, Brutents and Mineyev were invited to tour the entire country so that they can see the true image of the republic and the revolutionary process it is experiencing. There is opposition to formalization of ties with the Soviet Union in some sectors of the country. Recently there was a demonstration by citizens opposed to the presence of a Soviet Embassy in Panama and to visits by Soviet trade missions.

NEW VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PA241744 Paris AFP in Spanish 2323 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 23 Feb (AFP)--Panama has reestablished diplomatic relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the first ambassador to present his credentials is Le Tham. The Vietnamese ambassador was among three diplomats who presented their credentials to President Aristides Royo today. The other two were Lt Col Hector Rosales Salaverria of Guatemala, who is widely known here because he was an air force instructor and personal pilot of former Chief of Government Gen Omar Torrijos, and Christian de Saint Hubert of Belgium.

MINISTRY DENIES COMMITMENT TO RECEIVE CUBAN EXILES

PA240328 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Interview with Vice Foreign Minister Juan Manuel Castulovic; date not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Juan Manuel Castulovic, the international press attributes to Cuban officials the statement that Panama is prepared to receive 250 Cuban exiles. Is there any official position on the part of our country on receiving these 250 Cuban exiles?

[Answer] I believe the reports published by the local press are not exactly right. The Panamanian Government has not committed itself to grant residence to the Cuban exiles. Our attitude so far is to facilitate relocation of these persons in other countries willing to accept them as residents. To be frank, the country is facing serious problems of unemployment, and this situation compels us to be most careful in the handling of foreigners from Cuba or any other country.

Our position on receiving foreigners in our country has always been favorable. However, large groups such as this cannot be handled easily. That is why we have not made any commitments to that effect. That is our official position.

ROYO: PANAMANIANS TO ENTER ZONE 1 OCTOBER, REGARDLESS

PA162154 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2134 GMT 16 Feb 79 PA

[By Francisco Rubiales of ACAN-EFE]

[Excerpt] Panama City, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--While the U.S. House of Representatives is vigorously debating implementation legislation for the Torrijos-Carter canal treaties, Panamanian President Aristides Royo today displayed a friendly gesture toward the United States by visiting the School of the Americas and promising that it will not be closed.

The School of the Americas, located in the Panama Canal Zone, so far has graduated over 37,000 Latin American army officers, including several presidents and chiefs of government.

The assurance by the president of Panama today that his government did not intend to close the School of the Americas, considered by many as the highest symbol of the interventionist and coupist mentality of many Latin American armies, cleared away one of the most serious doubts contained in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

Asked whether his government was considering closing the School of the Americas, Royo said "definitely not." He added that the school should continue to exist with greater participation by the Latin American armies so that new militarymen who have closer bonds with their peoples can graduate. President Royo explained that it is a matter for the school to be more Latin American, for the United States to continue participating, but for the Latin Americans to consider it theirs and participate in its study, administration and financing plans.

However, within the friendly and conciliatory spirit demonstrated by the Panamanian president toward the United States today, he expressed a gesture of harshness when he said: "With implementation or without implementation, the Panamanians will enter the Canal Zone on 1 October." The president was referring to the difficulties that U.S. nationalist and conservative groups are creating for the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter canal treaties in the debate now in progress in the U.S. House of Representatives.

COMMUNIQUE WARNS AGAINST ABUSE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

PA170010 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Feb 79 PA

[Text of 16 February communique issued by Panamanian Government and Justice Ministry]

[Text] On repeated occasions, the national government has insisted--as an essential element for all citizens of this country to express and shape the various currents of opinion--on maintaining a broad democratization policy in regard to freedom of expression.

In the past few months, however, several radio commentators have unilaterally interpreted that policy as an instrument to be used indiscriminately to deliver diatribes, insults, defamatory statements and even slander.

Under that unique interpretation of what freedom of expression is, the notion of using the ingredients essential to adequate information have been lost. The veracity of sources is not confirmed. The easy use of rumors and inaccurate subterfuges is generalized, thereby helping to make the concept of freedom so flexible that it is pushed to such an extreme position as to contradict its true meaning.

The national government reiterates that the right to freedom of expression contained not only in the Declaration of Human Rights but also in our national constitution will continue to be valued and respected. We must point out, however, that freedom of expression cannot be exercised honestly and responsibly by delivering diatribes, insults and, least of all, by distorting facts.

The national government, through the Government and Justice Ministry, asks all those who, due to special circumstances and characteristics, use the mass communication media to maintain within the lines of seriousness and of the lofty criteria of a critical journalism that orients public opinion [sentence as heard].

[Signed] Government and Justice Minister Adolfo Ahumada

[Dated] 16 February 1979

CANAL AUTHORITY PROTESTS TRANSFER OF LOCOMOTIVE

PA231449 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 20 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Gabriel Lewis Galindo, director of the Canal Authority, today sent a letter of protest to [Canal Zone] Governor Harold Parfitt rejecting as unacceptable and contrary to the spirit of the treaty the unilateral decision by Canal Zone authorities to transfer Locomotive No 299 to Colon for shipment to a museum in New Jersey. The 3-page letter, signed by Gabriel Lewis Galindo, said that it is neither advantageous nor timely, nor within the spirit of the treaty, for Harold Parfitt to have reached this decision unilaterally, without consulting Panamanian authorities regarding the wisdom of this decision and its consequences in the task of preparing for the implementation of the Panama Canal treaty and the new relationship which the two countries are trying to establish.

The issue of Locomotive No 299 began over 1 year ago when Dr Reina Torres de Arauz, director of historical patrimony, wrote to the Canal Zone authorities explaining the value of this locomotive, which played a historic role on Panamanian territory by contributing to the realization of the Panama Canal. Subsequently, architect Edwin Fabrega, then director of the Canal Authority, wrote a letter explaining the national and international motives which made the plans for dismantling the locomotive unjustified.

Engine No 299 has been on permanent exhibition at the Balboa railroad station for many years. In his vigorous letter of protest Gabriel Lewis Galindo said that actions such as that of taking Engine No 299 away leave room for critics and opponents to interpret this attitude as part of a U.S. plan to carry out a systematic dismantling of various installations and equipment in the Canal Zone. While warning of the adverse current of opinion that will be generated by this unilateral decision, Gabriel Lewis Galindo questions U.S. good will as regards the respect due the sovereignty of the Panamanian nation.

COSTA RICA

NICARAGUAN, COSTA RICAN FORCES CLASH IN LOS CHILES

PA232007 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Three members of Costa Rica's public forces in Los Chiles, Alajuela, repelled an incursion yesterday by a Nicaraguan patrol when the Nicaraguans were walking openly in the area of the Costa Rican electrical institute. The Costa Ricans ordered the Nicaraguan patrol to halt. When the intruders failed to obey the order, the Costa Ricans opened fire with machineguns. The Nicaraguan patrol included approximately 10 men. So far there is no report on casualties.

According to reports, the shootout lasted less than 10 minutes. The Nicaraguans initially returned the fire but then fled into Nicaraguan territory when they were only a few meters away from downtown Los Chiles. Sources in Los Chiles say that Nicaraguan National Guard patrols of 10 or 12 men are seen constantly in the town. It was one of these patrols that was seen near the electrical institute. After the incident, Costa Rican public force members amassed for several hours, but after a while it became evident that this was no longer necessary since the situation returned to normal.

This morning Public Security and Government Minister Echeverria Brealey confirmed the clash between the public forces and the Somozist guard patrol and announced that a report is being prepared on the events that took place yesterday in Los Chiles. The minister said that Vice Public Security Minister Enrique Montealegre Martin, liaison between this ministry and the OAS observers commission, is preparing the report. Once the report is finished it will be presented to the chairman of the OAS commission as further evidence against the Nicaraguan Government.

CARAZO MEETS WITH PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

PA231159 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Excerpt] President Rodrigo Carazo has held a 50-minute meeting with Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores. The Panamanian official arrived in our country after 1400 and immediately went to the presidential house. Before meeting with Carazo, he said he would discuss topics related to the meeting that the two presidents will hold in the border area of Sixaola on 3 March.

The subject of Nicaragua will be included on the agenda that the presidents of Costa Rica and Panama will discuss for 8 hours. The situation in Nicaragua is a subject that concerns Costa Rica and Panama, Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores said. There is no doubt the two presidents will discuss this subject during the meeting they will hold in the border area of Sixaola next week. The finance ministers of Panama and Costa Rica will meet separately and discuss problems that arose recently at Paso Canoa.

EL SALVADOR

INCENDIARY BOMBS EXPLODE AT SANTA ANA RANCH

PA240347 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 Feb 79 pp 4, 62 PA

[Text] Santa Ana, El Salvador--Authorities have reported that incendiary bombs yesterday exploded at a ranch owned by Telesforo Eguizabal Carcamo. [paragraph continues]

The bombs caused heavy property damage. The ranch is located in Los Elizondo Valley in the Primavera District of Santa Ana. Eguizabal Carcamo reported that four bombs exploded at 0100 and damaged his property and destroyed a truck. When the rancher got up to check the damage, he found a note with the initials FPL [Popular Liberation Forces] which said that he had to deliver 50,000 colones to a site near the San Juan de Dios hospital of Santa Ana or he would be kidnaped within the next few days.

The explosions caused alarm among the residents of the district. Eguizabal yesterday reported the incident to the SIC [expansion unknown] which is investigating the case.

GUATEMALA

VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES POSSIBLE RESIGNATION

PA240015 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2050 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 23 Feb (LATIN)--Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer today announced his possible resignation. He is currently acting president, substituting for Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas, who is visiting the United States.

In a letter to the news media, the acting president said that he might offer his definite resignation in the future because of health reasons. Villagran Kramer has been acting president since 6 February, when President Lucas Garcia traveled to the United States to attend a congress and take a vacation.

Despite the stated health reasons, the letter indicated that Villagren Kramer is resentful for not having been taken into consideration in the government apparatus. The people's belief that I would be consulted in decisionmaking and in [words indistinct], he said. Villagran Kramer was elected vice president on 3 March 1978 and took office on 1 July 1978.

HONDURAS

TWO MILITARYMEN ARRESTED FOR SELLING ARMS TO SANDINISTS

PA240034 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2037 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The local paper LA TRIBUNA today reported that two members of the Honduran Army and three Sandinist guerrillas were arrested in the southern Department of Choluteca for illegal arms traffic. According to the paper, Sgt Santiago Reyes and a soldier whose last name is Suazo were selling all types of arms and ammunition to the Sandinists after stealing them from the arsenal of the battalion to which they were assigned. The Sandinists involved were identified as Juan Ramon Matamoros, another known only as "El Doctorcito" and Narciso Mendez. The first two are Nicaraguans and the third is Honduran.

The plot was discovered when Sergeant Reyes refused to give Suazo his share of the profits, after which the latter informed his superiors.

According to the Honduran Committee of Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua, the five persons involved in the case are being held incommunicado and are being subjected to intense questioning.

The army on several occasions has captured groups of Nicaraguans carrying Belgian-manufactured FAL rifles such as those used by the Honduran Armed Forces, but the Sandinists had not revealed where they had obtained them.

NICARAGUA

SANDINISTS ATTACK DIRIAMBA; INCIDENTS IN INTERIOR REPORTED

PA232049 Paris AFP in Spanish 1552 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Feb (AFP)--It has been reported here that yesterday evening Sandinist guerrillas launched a furious attack against the city of Diriamba, 40 km south of Managua, and fought the army until dawn today. The guerrillas launched their attack from four points and at times controlled some sectors of the city. The army has announced that a rebel, probably the commander of the Sandinist group, died in the fighting. The dead guerrilla, who has not been identified, was wearing a beret with a commander's star. Military sources have announced that the army recovered full control of Diriamba at dawn today. They believe that many guerrillas were wounded. An army officer noted that there were trails of blood in many areas of the city.

Other Sandinists also fought all evening against military patrols in Masaya, 30 km east of Managua. The fighting was intense in several areas of this city, but there has been no report of casualties.

In Managua there were shootouts and homemade bombs exploded in several neighborhoods of this city throughout the night. There was also violence in San Marcos, a town 50 km southeast of Managua, where 20-year-old student Walter Peralta was wounded. The attack has been attributed to a paramilitary group.

In Esquipulas, army patrols fought a Sandinist group that attacked a bank. Two bank employees were wounded and the attackers fled with $25,000. Esquipulas is 140 km north of Managua. In Matagalpa, a city 120 km north of Managua, Sandinists occupied a government office and escaped with $7,000.

BOMBINGS, SHOOTING REPORTED IN PACIFIC COAST AREA

PA232010 Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Shooting and bombings took place last night in cities along Nicaragua's Pacific coast. According to reports from Masaya, there were shootouts and bombings in San Sebastian and Monimbo. Traffic to the city of Las Flores has been interrupted since 1915 last night. National Guardsmen blocked the passage of 4 buses, and their 60 passengers were returned to Managua. It was reported in Granada that volleys of machinegun fire were heard at approximately 1930 in the vicinity of President Somoza Avenue and the railroad station. Traffic between Granada and Managua was also interrupted between 1900 and 2000 last night.

More on Granada Attack

PA222003 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1453 GMT 22 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 22 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan National Guard reportedly inflicted at least seven casualties on the Sandinist squads that appeared in Granada, a city located 45 km east of this capital, yesterday evening. The reports do not specify if the number of casualties refers only to those killed or if it includes injured.

According to the news reports released here today, some 30 armed youths, wearing red and black scarves and riding in several vehicles, entered the city from four different directions shouting "vivas" to Gen Augusto Cesar Sandindo and to the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN). Yesterday was the 45th anniversary of the Nicaraguan guerrilla general's death. In several parts of the city of Granada, the rebels exchanged machinegun fire and shots from other weapons with National Guard forces stationed in that city. According to several eyewitnesses, in the Xalteva neighborhood National Guardsmen had to drop to the floor in combat position to repel the rebels' attack.

The sound of machinegun fire could be heard sporadically throughout the night, but it was evident that the shooting between the Sandinists and soldiers loyal to Gen Anastasio Somoza became intense at times. Before midnight, 45 Granada Red Cross volunteers transferred 5 injured civilians to the local hospital. Dozens of persons sought refuge from the shooting in the Red Cross headquarters. Before midnight, a military vehicle arrived at San Vicente hospital, located in this convulsed city, to drop off the body of an unidentified youth, presumably a Sandinist.

The semiofficial newspaper NOVEDADES says today that the National Guard inflicted seven casualties on the Sandinist forces which harassed Granada last night. Angela Morales, her daughter Janet Gutierrez Morales, Mayra Calderon, Ernesto Gutierrez and Marvin Vega are among the injured.

The Sandinist rebels also set fire to a cotton gin, destroying hundreds of cotton bales. A neighborhood supermarket was also destroyed by flames. It has also been learned that the Sandinist squads tried to seize the Granada Fire Department headquarters but failed to do so because several National Guardsmen were there to resist their attack.

It is believed that the Sandinist squads managed to escape from the soldiers early this morning. Before leaving the city, they again shouted "vivas" for General Sandino and fired their machineguns.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that several contact bombs exploded in cities located in the country's interior, such as Rivas, Matagalpa and Leon. Similar bombs also went off in several capital city neighborhoods.

Sandinist Communique Reported

PA241953 Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Our correspondent in Granada, Julio Cesar Fermuni, has reported that circulating in that city yesterday was a communique signed by the General Staff of the Sinforoso Bravo Eastern Front and the Ulises Tapia Eastern Front of the Insurrectional Sandinist Front. The communique asserted that they were responsible for the guerrilla incursion in Granada on the night of 21 February, the 35th anniversary of the death of Gen Augusto Cesar Sandino. The communique says in part that after attaining their tactical and military objective, the guerrillas withdrew in an orderly fashion without sustaining any casualties.

35 PRISONERS PLACED AT PRESIDENT'S DISPOSAL

PA241721 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0006 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A total of 35 political prisoners, from various cities in Nicaragua, were placed at the disposal of President Gen Anastasio Somoza today, Friday.

The news was revealed by Col Aquiles Aranda, National Guard public relations chief, who thus put in practice for the first time the idea of providing lists of political prisoners.

Out of the total number of prisoners at the president's disposal, 28 were arrested in Jinotepe, a city located 45 km south of here. Five others were arrested in the cities of Diriamba and Somoto, which are located in the northern part of Nicaragua.

The political prisoners, detained on alleged charges of disrupting public order in the country, were placed at President Somoza's disposal in accordance with Article 195 of the constitution. The prisoners will be at the president's disposal for 10 days, after which time he will either have to release them or have them arraigned. If the president deems it necessary to confine the prisoners, he will be able to order their confinement during a Council of Ministers meeting.

CONSERVATIVE PARTY MAY BE OUSTED FROM OPPOSITION

PA241956 Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Dr Osman Buitrago Buitrago has reported from Leon that a meeting was held in Leon yesterday afternoon by several metropolitan opposition groups which agreed to ask the Broad Opposition Front to expel the Nicaraguan Conservative Party led by Rene Sandino Arguello because of the Conservative Party congressmen's refusal to give up their share of the national budget. [as heard]

OPPOSITION CALLS FOR EXPULSION OF SENATORS, DEPUTIES

PA241957 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Feb 79 PA

[Text] Opposition groups have begun a movement to request the resignation of 30 senators and 70 deputies of the Nicaraguan Congress. The deputies and senators in question are those known as mosquitos [zancudos]; in other words, they lend themselves to Somoza's game. As these persons are also members of the Broad Opposition Front, opposition groups are also calling for their expulsion from that body.

VALDES VIVO MEETS WITH PHAM VAN DONG IN HANOI

FL231228 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1506 GMT 23 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Pham Van Dong, premier of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV], today received a delegation from the PCC headed by Raul Valdes Vivo, member of the PCC Secretariat. Valdes Vivo delivered a message of solidarity to Pham Van Dong from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of our country's Councils of State and Ministers, in the name of the Cuban party, government and people in support of the Vietnamese struggle against Chinese aggression.

The PRENSA LATINA dispatch reports that the meeting in Hanoi was held in a friendly and fraternal atmosphere. The Cuban delegation, which includes Melba Hernandez, Cuban ambassador to the SRV, toured several sites of interest in Ho Chi Minh City.

GROUP ASKS UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO ACT AGAINST PRC

FL241341 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 79 FL

[Text] In a message sent to the UN Security Council, Cuba's Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples has requested from the president of that international organization an energetic action aimed at achieving the immediate withdrawal of Chinese troops from Vietnam's territory.

ICAP OFFICIAL REPORTS ON SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM IN U.S.

FL231902 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 79 FL

[Filmed interview with Carlos Alberto, deputy director of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples, on the Chinese aggression against Vietnam; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] The Chinese aggression against Vietnam has had profound repercussions throughout our country. Comrade Carlos Alberto today expresses his opinion on the speech made by Commander in Chief Fidel at La Rampa a few days ago; that is, the main event of solidarity with the Vietnamese people.

[Question] Carlos, what is your opinion on Fidel's speech and the event in support for the Vietnamese people?

[Answer] Firstly, our Commander in Chief's speech clearly explained our people's position in connection with the aggression perpetrated by the Chinese governing clique against the heroic Vietnamese people. Our solidarity with the Vietnamese people and our willingness to give whatever becomes necessary for Vietnam was demonstrated once more at the event.

[Question] We have received information that your organization, through regular work sources, has recently learned that this has had some repercussions in the United States. I am referring to the Chinese invasion of Vietnam. What has the Cuban Institute of Friendship With Peoples [ICAP] learned, and what can you tell us?

[Answer] First of all, I can tell you that on 19 February, despite a temperature of 20 degrees below zero, in New York a demonstration was organized by the Venceremos Brigade, the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, the U.S. Communist Party and other organizations. During this demonstration, some 600 or 700 persons expressed their unrestricted support for Vietnam's cause and condemned the Chinese aggression and the Yankee government's complicity in it.

[Question] Do you know of any other future activities of this type on the occasion of this Chinese aggression against Vietnam?

[Answer] Today at noon, again in New York, a provisional committee of support for Vietnam was established, and preparations are being made for a still-greater demonstration than the one staged on 19 February.

[Reporter] We would like to thank Comrade Carlos Alberto, ICAP deputy director for solidarity, for this interview.

PEREZ HERRERO ASKS WORLD SOLIDARITY FOR VIETNAM

FL231821 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Feb 79 FL

[Text] PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Antonio Perez Herrero, in speaking at the national festival of the new folk songs being held in Moa [Holguin Province], has said that Vietnam deserves and needs world solidarity today more than ever. He said the invasion of Vietnam by Chinese military forces constitutes the most criminal action generated by reaction and hegemony, and it is a murky page in the long and shameless attitude of the Beijing government.

DELEGATE TO BUCHAREST CONFERENCE DENOUNCES PRC

FL211921 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Bucharest--Cuba has joined in denouncing the Chinese attacks on Vietnam at the first session of the consultative meeting of the Socialist Countries Interparliamentary Group. In speaking at the inaugural session, Aleida March, vice president of the Cuban Parliamentary Group, requested that the agenda of the meeting include a point on the Chinese attack unleashed on the fraternal people of Vietnam. Similar proposals were made by delegates from the USSR and Vietnam. Aleida stated that the Cuban Parliamentary Group is willing and believes it opportune for this meeting to make a statement on the Chinese invasion of Vietnam. She said that we should jointly face these new situations created by those who far from keeping mankind from the terrible consequences of war, play and maneuver with all factors within reach in their zealous desire for expansion and domination by establishing alliances with the most reactionary and bellicose forces.

RADIO RELOJ ASSAILS CHINESE INVASION

FL222006 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1913 GMT 22 Feb 79 FL

[Unattributed Radio Reloj commentary: "The Impossible Lesson"]

[Text] The most ominous betrayal in history of the world communist movement took place 6 days ago when Chinese troops invaded Vietnam. Today, an AFP dispatch confirms the rash and insane predictions made by Beijing when it attempted to give a lesson to the heroic Vietnamese people, who recently concluded a long war against Yankee imperialism. The AFP dispatch says: Six days of border conflicts have been enough for China to inflict the promised lesson or punishment on Vietnam, it was commented in Beijing at the time when the military campaign was still going on. And the dispatch adds: The silence in official Beijing circles is complete on the development of events, and the press is reporting events in a laconic manner.

The Beijing-datelined report filed by AFP points out in one of its paragraphs that foreign diplomatic and military circles in the capital believe that the situation becomes more dangerous for China as the aggression is prolonged.

But let us hear how AFP explains the Chinese invasion of Vietnam: According to interpretations, the action on an operation of this type over several kilometers of front can be explained by the eventual setbacks experienced by the Chinese troops. The soldiers found it impossible to fall back because the retreat routes were cut off, concludes AFP. In its desperate and sly advance, the Chinese Army sent by the Beijing clique crossed kilometers into Vietnamese territory, and now the invasion will last as long as it takes to get out of the dead end.

The decision of the Chinese leadership to invade Vietnam was a criminal, insane and rash action and, as our commander in chief has declared, it constitutes the most shameful betrayal of the world communist movement in history. That is why Beijing's official military sources mentioned by AFP are trying to invent all sorts of lies to justify their presence on Vietnamese territory. It represents a serious threat to world peace, and it alerts the world of what the Chinese-North American coalition signed in Washington during the visit of the Fascist apprentice Deng Xiaoping is capable of doing.

Our people, who are increasing their solidarity with the Heroic Vietnamese people, have responded to Fidel's call to be prepared and ready for everything. Commander in Chief: At your orders for Vietnam.

RAUL CASTRO CONTINUES OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR

Attends Armed Forces Celebration

FL230034 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Feb 79 FL

[Text] Army Gen Raul Castro and Marshal of the Soviet Union Dmitriy Ustinov tonight presided over a celebration on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Soviet Armed Forces. Senior military officers, government ministers and other Soviet officials accompanied the USSR defense minister and the Cuban guest in presiding over the activity.

Presents Medal to Kosygin

FL240036 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 79 FL

[Excerpts] Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, today in the Kremlin presented the Jose Marti order to Aleksey Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The Jose Marti Order was awarded to Kosygin for his outstanding contribution to the cause of building socialism, his militant solidarity with and support for the Cuban Revolution, for strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and to mark his 75th birthday.

Raul Castro said the Cuban people know Aleksey Kosygin very well and value his efforts as head of the Soviet Government and a leader of the CPSU. He added that Kosygin participated actively in implementing the Leninist policy of the CPSU based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian and socialist internationalism.

For his part, Aleksey Kosygin thanked the PCC Central Committee, the Councils of State and Ministers and Commander in Chief Fidel Castro for awarding him the high decoration. He emphasized that the award, the Jose Marti Order, is another expression of the indestructible friendship between the Soviet and Cuban peoples and the governments and parties of the two countries.